

NEW CLAIMS

5. In a method of making particles, in particular spheroids intended to be used for preparing tablets, said particles which include an active substance having a constant diameter in the range from 0.5 mm to 2 mm and a controlled and predetermined active substance release curve, said method including successively

- a step of selecting an active substance and a thermoplastic material, including at least one polymer excipient and at least one plasticiser,
- a step of forming a mixture of the active substance and the thermoplastic material,
- a step of extruding the said mixture without solvent at a controlled temperature to produce at least one extruded filament or extrudate, and
- a step of chopping the extruded filament extrudate into particles, the improvement comprising the further step of maturing the mixture of the active substance and the thermoplastics material by maintaining it before extrusion at a temperature and for a time respectively selected in the range from 20°C to 70°C and in the range from 30 minutes to 150 hours, whereby it becomes possible to store the mixture of the active substance and the thermoplastic material for up to 7 days before extruding it and to increase the quantity of active substance for a given release curve without increasing the volume of the tablet.

6. Apparatus for making particles in the form of spheroids comprising a mixture of an active substance distributed within a thermoplastic material and having a constant diameter in the range from 0.5mm to 2mm, said apparatus comprising an